

THE BOSTON FLOATING HOSPITAL

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THAT the Boston Floating Hospital is well known by the nurses of the country as an excellent place in which to take a post-graduate course, is shown by the fact that since the Training-School started, in 1899, 113 of them have received diplomas. These nurses have graduated from hospitals located in sixteen States and in Australia. In 1905 there were 32 who passed the necessary examinations for practical work and knowledge, shown by written answers to questions.

Pernaps a copy of these questions may be interesting:

NURSES' EXAMINATION

POST-GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE BOSTON FLOATING HOSPITAL, 1905

EXPRESS YOUR MEANING CLEARLY. RE-READ YOUR ANSWERS.

1. What points should be noticed about the dejections of infants?
2. What precautions would you take to prevent reinfection while caring for a case of intestinal inflammation in an infant?
3. Describe the principles of treatment of diarrhœa, due to bacteria, in infancy?
4. What is the best food for babies? Why? Are there any exceptions?
5. In caring for a premature baby, what signs would lead you to think it progressing (a) favorably? (b) unfavorably?
6. Tell what you know about the respiration in childhood.
7. What food should be given a child with an acute infectious disease, who has no diarrhœa?
8. Describe the administration of chloroform to a child.
9. Describe the cry of pain; how does it differ from that due to hunger?
10. Describe the condition known as imperforate anus.

To prepare them for this written examination, eleven lectures are given by the visiting staff, notes taken, later written out in full, and corrected by the Superintendent of Nurses, who also conducted quizzes. Collateral reading is furnished to such as can make use of it.

Practical instruction is also given by the doctors. Last summer in the ten weeks from July 6—September 13, there were treated in the wards 279 patients; 24 had bronchitis, 7 broncho-pneumonia, 10 convulsions, 106 fermental diarrhœa, 76 ileo-colitis, 26 purpura, 24 toxæmia, etc. Many had two or three diseases at the same time or while in the hospital. The clinic is a varied one, though of course summer diseases predominate.

Besides the ward patients, whose care is conducted very much as in any large hospital, there are the day patients. These come in the morning and stay all day on the upper deck, returning to their homes in the afternoon. During the season of 1905 there were 686 such individual

patients, and there is the same variety in their diseases as there is among the ward patients. The nurses are also carefully instructed in the practical work of preparing different kinds of foods for babies, as well as numerous special methods of treatment useful in the severest cases. Of these last there is an unusual number, for the hospital is very often the place of last resort, all hope elsewhere having been given up.

Meals to the nurses are served in their own dining-room. There are the same regular hours off for rest and the same sharing in night duty as in any large hospital. A special resting-place is provided for the mid-day hour off, for the work over sick babies is recognized to be exhausting as well as interesting and instructive. Sleeping-rooms are found in the entire upper floor of the largest hotel in East Boston, situated within easy walking distance of the wharf where the boat is tied up at night.

Such careful attention by the trustees for the welfare of the nurses has always secured applications largely in excess of the number whom it has been possible to accept. But this year we are to have a new boat with a capacity practically double that of the old boat. There will be six large wards, besides an emergency ward and the open upper deck; 100 patients will be much better accommodated than the 57 in the old boat. Everything will be larger and more complete. The boat is being built for this special purpose. There is none other like it in existence. All the lessons learned in the twelve years' use of the old boat, known to nautical circles as the barge Clifford, have been embodied in the plans for the new boat. Built of iron, with water-tight compartments, fitted for its own motive power and with its own plant for lighting and ventilating, we have every reason to expect better work even than that which has already made the hospital famous. A peculiar feature with regard to the ventilating is that the air is cooled and dried before being carried to the wards. This is more important at night than in the day, when the boat is anchored far down the harbor where, if anywhere, cool breezes blow. Special emphasis is laid on the cool wards, fresh air, and skilfully prepared foods administered and directed by trained hands for the treatment of the sick babies.

For this larger work probably at least fifty nurses will be needed. All applications should be made to the Superintendent of Nurses, Miss L. A. Wilber, 362 Commonwealth avenue, Boston.